

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 01663 042156Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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P 042129Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8207

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL QUEBEC PRIORITY

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1663

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: QUEBEC ELECTION: THE SEPARATISM ISSUE

1. A (IF NOT THE) PRINCIPAL THEME OF PREMIER BOURASSA IN THIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN "FEDERALISM VS. SEPARATISM." THE OFFICIAL LIBERAL PARTY POSTER READS: "NO TO SEPARATISM - BOURASSA (WITH VERY LARGE PHOTO) -- OUR ONLY GUARANTEE" AND IN HIS OWN AND OTHER CANDIDATES' SPEECHES, MAJOR EMPHASIS IS LAID ON CLAIM "A VOTE FOR ANY OTHER PARTY IS A VOTE FOR THE PQ."

2. PUBLICATION OF INTERVIEW WITH JEAN-PAUL L'ALLIER, QUEBEC CULTURAL MINISTER, IN JUST-RELEASED ISSUE OF MAGAZINE "QUEST" WILL ADD TO IMAGE OF PARTY AS RIDDLED BY FACTIONALISM. L'ALLIER IS QUOTED THEREIN AS SAYING "THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS THE CHOICE BETWEEN PROFOUND CHANGES IN THE RULES OR THE RISK OF CONSEQUENCES. IF THESE CHANGES DO NOT COME ABOUT, IF WE CONTINUE TO FEEL OURSELVES SMOTHERED AND UNABLE TO GROW AND BLOSSOM AS QUEBECOIS, THEN, YES, WE ARE GOING TO SEPARATE. I WANT TO SAY THAT WE, THE LIBERALS, WILL MAKE QUEBEC LEAVE THE FEDERATION. WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR ANYONE ELSE TO DO IT."

3. FACTIONALISM OVER LANGUAGE ISSUE ALREADY A SORE POINT. PARTY MORALE, AS WELL AS IMAGE OF BOURASSA AS EFFECTIVE LEADER, ALREADY FLAGGING. THIS WILL FURTHER DAMAGE BOTH.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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